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Message Text

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43
ORIGIN AF-06

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AID-05 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-07 FRB-03

INR-07 NSAE-00 USIA-06 TRSE-00 XMB-02 OPIC-03 SP-02

CIEP-01 LAB-04 SIL-01 OMB-01 EUR-12 HEW-02 /063 R

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APPROVED BY AF/I:DAZACHARY
AF/W:RMCGUIRE
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R 242237Z OCT 75
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY ACCRA
INFO AMEMBASSY DAKAR

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ELAB, PORG, EEC, XA, UR

SUBJECT: INTERNATIONAL TRADE UNION ACTIVITIES IN GHANA

REF: STATE 227917

1. ALTHOUGH THE AFL-CIO CONVENTION HAS PASSED, THE DEPARTMENT IS STILL INTERESTED IN THE TEXT OF PRESS RELEASES AND PUBLIC STATEMENTS MADE BY DENNIS AKUMU, GENERAL SECRETARY OF THE ORGANIZATION OF AFRICAN TRADE UNION UNITY (OATUU) FOLLOWING HIS RECENT VISIT TO THE SOVIET UNION. PLEASE POUCH TO AF/I.

2. CONVERSATIONS WHICH THE BUREAU LABOR ADVISOR HAD WITH AKUMU IN SAN FRANCISCO INDICATE THAT AKUMU WAS IMPRESSED WITH THE SOCIAL WELFARE ASPECTS OF SOVIET FACTORY LIFE AND SOVIET TRADE UNION PARTICIPATION IN THIS AREA, BUT THAT THE SHORTAGES OF CONSUMER GOODS, AS ILLUSTRATED BY THE PRE-
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VALENCE OF LONG LINES OF WAITING CUSTOMERS, INDICATED

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SERIOUS DEFICIENCIES IN THE DISTRIBUTIVE SYSTEM. AKUMU ACKNOWLEDGED THAT THE ROLE OF THE SOVIET UNIONS IS NOT THE SAME IN CERTAIN KEY RESPECTS WITH THAT OF WESTERN TRADE UNIONS, BUT CERTAIN OTHER SOVIET UNION ROLES, SUCH AS THE SOCIAL WELFARE ASPECT AND THE CONCERN WITH PRODUCTIVITY,

ARE AREAS IN WHICH THE AFRICAN UNIONS MIGHT BENEFIT FROM THE SOVIET EXAMPLE. MRS. AKUMU, WHO IS AN AMERICAN CITIZEN AND RESIDING IN ACCRA WITH AKUMU, ACCOMPANIED HIM ON THE TRIP AND, ACCORDING TO AKUMU, WAS MORE SKEPTICAL OF WHAT WAS OBSERVED, SERVING AS A COUNTERWEIGHT TO THE OFFICIAL SOVIET PRESENTATIONS.

3. THE DEPARTMENT IS INTERESTED ON A CONTINUING BASIS IN THE ACTIVITIES OF THE OATUU. OF PRESENT INTEREST ARE PREPARATIONS FOR THE APRIL 1976 OATUU CONVENTION, CURRENTLY SCHEDULED FOR LIBYA, AND THE JANUARY ACCRA MEETING OF THE OATUU GENERAL COUNCIL. KISSINGER

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